

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

Phone: 605-737-6721 Email: ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil

Web: sd.ng.mil

www.facebook.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard

www.flickr.com/SouthDakotaNationalGuard

twitter.com/SD_Guard



October 8, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recruiting Battalion changes command

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Lt. Col. Steve Siemonsma, of Piedmont, took command of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion during a change-of-command ceremony, Saturday, Oct. 3, at Joint Force Headquarters on Camp Rapid.

Siemonsma assumed responsibility from Lt. Col. Kory Knight, of Hartford, who served in the position since October 2012.

"It is a privilege and honor to take command of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion during a time when strength management is so important," said Siemonsma, a native of Sioux Falls. "I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with such a great group of professionals."

As commander, Siemonsma is now responsible for about 26 recruiters in communities across the state with a mission to recruit and retain quality Soldiers in the SDARNG.

"I look at everyday as an interview and am looking forward to my interview with this outstanding unit," said Siemonsma.

Knight is now assigned as the administrative officer for the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Sioux Falls.

Siemonsma's career in the SDARNG began when he enlisted in the Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery in December 1995. By September 1998, he received his commission as a second lieutenant through the SDARNG's Officer Candidate School. As an artillery officer, he was assigned to Battery C, 1/147th FA in Yankton.

Some of his career highlights include liaison and fire direction officer for the Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery, 1/147th FA, commander of Battery B, 1/147th FA, officer strength manager and operations and training officer for the Recruiting Battalion in Rapid City, and the administrative officer for the 1/147th Field Artillery Battalion in Watertown.

Prior to his assignment as R&R Battalion commander, he was the deputy for the Construction and Facilities Management Office at Joint Force Headquarters in Rapid City.

Siemonsma also completed a tour of duty in Iraq, deploying with 2nd Battalion, 147th Field Artillery in 2004-2005.

Some of Siemonsma's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and GWOT Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard



Lt. Col. Steve Siemonsma: (U.S. Army National Guard file photo/Released)



100315-Z-GT719-017: Lt. Col. Steve Siemonsma, right, incoming commander of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, receives the unit's colors from Col. Mike Oster, deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel for Joint Force Headquarters, during a change of command ceremony in Rapid City, S.D., Oct. 3, 2015. Siemonsma assumed responsibility from Lt. Col. Kory Knight, who served in the position since October 2012. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee/Released)



100315-Z-GT719-047: Lt. Col. Steve Siemonsma, incoming commander of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, addresses his Soldiers and guests during a change of command ceremony in Rapid City, S.D., Oct. 3, 2015. Siemonsma assumed responsibility from Lt. Col. Kory Knight, who served in the position since October 2012. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee/Released)



100315-Z-GT719-030: Lt. Col. Kory Knight, right, outgoing commander of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion, South Dakota Army National Guard, receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Col. Mike Oster, deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel for Joint Force Headquarters, during a change of command ceremony in Rapid City, S.D., Oct. 3, 2015. Lt. Col. Steve Siemonsma assumed command responsibility from Knight, who served in the position since October 2012. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Trobee/Released)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Maj. Anthony Deiss at (605) 737-6721 or cell (605) 431-8753, or e-mail ng.sd.sdarng.list.pao@mail.mil